**Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi**

**at Pakistan Defence & Martyrs Day Reception**

(Beijing: 30 September 2024)

**Air Marshal Jia Zhigang**

**Honorable Guests,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Thank you very much to all of you for joining us on an important day in our national calendar; the Defence and Martyrs Day.

On this day 59 years ago, Pakistan’s armed forces demonstrated remarkable grit, courage and skill in successfully countering the aggression of a larger adversary in numbers and size.

Today, we pay tribute to the brave sons of our soil who made the ultimate sacrifice defending the frontiers of our homeland. We owe these martyrs an enduring debt of gratitude. Today we salute their bravery, their sense of duty and their selfless dedication to their motherland.

The 1965 war tested the capabilities of our armed forces. They came out with flying colors, setting high standards of professionalism, valor, sacrifice and determination.

Whether on the ground during the Battle of Chawinda or in the skies through the brave efforts of our airmen, our armed forces demonstrated that Pakistan would never bow to aggression.

The lessons learned from those days have become an integral part of our military ethos and continue to inspire new generations.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Pakistan’s defence today is built on a foundation of adaptability, innovation, and strategic partnerships. Our journey from the challenges of 1965 to the present has seen Pakistan become a modern, capable military force, poised to address the complexities of contemporary warfare.

Whether addressing traditional threats or navigating emerging challenges in cyber and space domains, Pakistan’s armed forces are prepared to deter aggression, defend the frontiers and safeguard the territorial integrity of the country.

On this Defence & Martyrs Day, we also recognize the men and women of our armed forces who serve the nation with distinction and sense of duty.

**Distinguished guests,**

A key pillar of our defence modernization is the long-standing partnership with China, which is in mutual trust, mutual respect, and shared strategic goals.

In addition to several defence projects, our joint military exercises, consultations and exchange of defence delegations continue to solidify our special relationship.

I take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to the Government of China and People's Liberation Army for their unwavering support to Pakistan.

A strong Pakistan-China partnership remains a vital factor in fostering and preserving peace, stability, and prosperity in our respective regions.

Before closing, on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, I wish to extend our warmest felicitations to the Government and people of China on the 75th anniversary of the founding of China.

*Long live Pakistan China friendship!*

Thank you!